

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. NORMAN-TAYLOR, M.D. (LOND.), D.P.H., D.I.H., *F.R.S.H.*

AND

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

LESLIE LOWE, M.A.P.H.I.

FOR THE YEAR

1971

CITY OF ST. ALBANS
ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT
HARPENDEN URBAN DISTRICT
ELSTREE RURAL DISTRICT

With the Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BLEAK HOUSE
CATHERINE STREET
ST. ALBANS

Telephone:
ST. ALBANS 59211

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

Councillor R.B. Sparrow, (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs. C.M. Hadow, (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor J. Armstrong,
Councillor T.F. Biggs,
Councillor G.K. Dickens,
Councillor J. Hoey,
Councillor W. Inglis,
Councillor D.J. Jeffrey,
Councillor W. Pitt,
Councillor R.N.B. Prior.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

W. Norman-Taylor, M.D.(Lond.)., D.P.H., D.I.H., F.R.S.H.,
Medical Officer of Health

P. M. B. O'Reilly, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
Deputy Medical Officer of Health

L. Lowe, M.A.P.H.I.,
Chief Public Health Inspector

W. A. Beere, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,
Deputy Public Health Inspector

H. Sumner, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.,
Additional Public Health Inspector

R. J. Murphy,
Student Public Health Inspector

Mrs. D. B. Jones,
Senior Clerical Assistant

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To: The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of St. Albans.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the Year 1971, together with the Report of your Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. L. Lowe.

The long gestation period of the new National Health Service (1974 model) drags slowly on. As I write, we still await the definitive white paper on the precise way in which the new service will be shaped. As a clue to the possible way the Government is thinking, we have had the "Hunter Report" on medical administration. This, among many other matters, recommends that there should be a "District Community Physician" and it is to be presumed that the local M.O.H. will be reincarnated in this form. What is still uncertain is the precise way in which the "DCP" will link up with the new district local authorities. The duties of local authorities, according to the Bill now before Parliament, would appear to be much as before. The District Councils will therefore still need to be in touch with a medical adviser. From a health administration point of view the system found in the old County Boroughs is undoubtedly the most efficient, with the one M.O.H. covering all aspects of health. Unfortunately this is not to be the pattern, as had been widely hoped. However, in Hertfordshire we have always had the next best thing, namely M.O'sH. who are also County Divisional Medical Officers. Thus we, in this County, already have a firm foundation on which, to plan our new functions, and one in which the transition to the new system should not disrupt existing arrangements too violently.

Whatever the planners may plan, one thing is clear: the work is still there to be done. An M.O.H., under whatever title he may be given, is still the "watch dog of the health of the people", and to perform this function he must be on the spot, he must be known - not only to the Councillors but also to the public. Let us hope that this valuable link will not be interfered with.

My account of what I, and Mr. Lowe, have done on your behalf during 1971 to safeguard the health of the people whom you represent, will be found in the pages which follow.

W. Norman-Taylor,

Medical Officer of Health.

St. Albans

June 1972

Section A

HEALTH STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population	44,670
Area (in acres)	32,084
Number of Inhabited Houses on the Rate Books	
Dwelling Houses	13,065
Shops with Living Accommodation	67
Licensed Premises with Living Accommodation	53
Rateable Value	£2,374,085

BIRTHS

	<u>Number</u>	<u>St. Albans</u> <u>R.D.C.</u>	<u>Herts</u>	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>
Live Births - and Rate per 1,000 population	631	14.1	15.1	16.0
Illegitimate Live Births - and Rate % of total live births	30	5.0	-	8.0
Stillbirths - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	5	8.0	9.9	12.0
Infant deaths (deaths under one year) - Rate per 1,000 live births	6	10.0	15.1	18.0
Illegitimate Infant deaths - and Illegitimate infant death rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1	33.0	24.2	24.0
Neo-Natal Mortality - (deaths under 4 weeks of age) and Rate per 1,000 total live births.	5	8.0	10.8	12.0
Early Neo-Natal Mortality - (deaths under 1 week) and Rate per 1,000 total live births.	3	5.0	8.6	10.0
Peri-Natal Mortality - (stillbirths and deaths under one week) - Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.	8	13.0	18.3	22.0

There was a small increase in the actual number of births (631) in the Rural District in 1971, and the birth rate remained steady at 14.1 live births per 1,000 population. The adjusted comparable birth rate of 12.8 compares with 14.2 for the County of Hertfordshire and 16.0 for England and Wales.

There were 5 stillbirths in 1971 compared with 10 in 1970, giving a stillbirth birth rate of 8.0 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths, compared with 16.0 in 1970.

Corrected Birth Rate (Crude rates multiplied by the "Comparability factor" to allow for differences in age and sex population as compared with the country as a whole.)

	<u>St. Albans R.D.C.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Herts.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>England</u> <u>& Wales</u>
Crude Birth Rate	14.1	0.91	15.1	0.94	16
Corrected Birth Rate	12.8		14.2		16

Comments on Births

6 children died under the age of 1 compared with 8 in 1970, a decrease of 2. This makes the infant mortality rate in 1971, 10.0, compared with 13.0 in 1970.

Breaking down the number of children who died under the age of 1 year, 3 children died in the first week of life compared with 5 in 1970, giving an early neo-natal mortality rate of 5.0 in 1971 a total of 5 children died under the age of 1 month, compared with 7 children in 1970, giving a newo-natal mortality rate of 8.0 (11.0 in 1970).

There was one death of a child between 1 month and 1 year old in 1971, the same as the previous year. Considering together the stillbirths, and those children who died in the first week of life (that is, those children whose death resulted as a complication of pregnancy, and childbirth), the perinatal mortality rate was 13.0 compared with 24.0 in 1970. Although all these rates vary from the previous year, these differences are really very small and all could be due to chance variations. The National figures for England and Wales are given for comparison.

DEATHS

Number of Deaths:	547
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population:	12.2

There were 547 deaths in the district in 1971, compared with 583 in 1970. This gives a death rate of 12.2 compared with a death rate of 13.2 in 1970. When these figures are corrected, the death rate treated in this way becomes 7.9 in 1971 and 8.6 in 1970. The death rate for England and Wales to be compared with this is 11.

	<u>St.Albans R.D.C.</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>Herts</u>	<u>Factor</u>	<u>England & Wales</u>
Crude Death Rate	12.2	0.65	9.0	1.13	11.6
Corrected Death Rate	7.9		10.2		11.6

Death, Birth, Infant Mortality, Stillbirth and Perinatal Mortality Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death Rate</u>	<u>Birth Rate</u>	<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>Stillbirth Rate</u>	<u>Peri-natal Mortality Rate</u>
1950	7.7	13.2	22.5		
1951	7.7	13.3	29.1		
1952	6.8	12.8	8.1		
1953	18.1	14.5	28.6		
1954	17.7	14.5	16.6		
1955	19.1	15.2	15.3		
1956	19.3	14.4	19.8		
1957	16.0	15.3	17.8		
1958	13.6	17.3	18.5		
1959	12.1	17.7	23.5		
1960	12.4	17.6	22.9		
1961	12.3	17.4	16.5	19.2	35.4
1962	12.7	18.7	20.4	9.5	21.6
1963	13.6	18.2	8.2	12.2	14.9
1964	10.7	17.9	9.5	6.7	10.8
1965	12.3	15.3	13.9	12.2	22.9
1966	13.0	14.7	8.0	11.1	15.9
1967	11.9	14.3	7.0	8.0	11.0
1968	13.5	14.2	17.8	14.4	27.2
1969	13.8	14.0	10.0	8.0	16.0
1970	13.2	14.1	13.0	16.0	24.0
1971	12.2	14.1	10.0	8.0	13.0

Causes of Death

(N.B. A new system of classification was introduced by the Registrar General four years ago so that these statistics are not directly comparable with those for the years previous to that).

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Bacillary Dysentery, Amoebiasis	-	1
Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	3	1
Streptococcal Sore Throat, Scarlet Fever	1	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	-
Cancer - Buccal Cavity	1	-
Cancer - Oesophagus	1	1
Cancer - Stomach	4	3
Cancer - Intestine	4	3
Cancer - Lung, Bronchus	15	4
Cancer - Breast	0	14
Cancer - Uterus	-	3
Leukaemia	4	1
Other Cancers, Etc.	8	18
Diabetes Mellitus	2	-
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	1	1
Mental Disorders	1	4
Other Diseases of Nervous System, Etc.	5	6
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	2
Hypertensive Disease	6	12
Ischaemic Heart Disease (Coronary)	54	58
Other Forms of Heart Disease	16	23
Cerebrovascular Disease (Stroke)	20	27
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	9	22
Influenza	1	2
Pneumonia	26	63
Bronchitis and Emphysema	16	6
Asthma	1	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	4	3
Peptic Ulcer	1	3
Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	4	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	3	2
Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	5	4
Diseases of Skin, Subcutaneous tissue	1	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	1	-
Congenital Anomalies	1	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, Etc.	2	2
Other Causes of peri-natal mortality	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	1
All Other Accidents	3	7
Suicide and Self Inflicted Injuries	6	1
All Other External Causes	-	1
Total All Causes	241	306

It will be seen that the principal causes of death were, as has been usual in recent years, the following:-

	<u>1971</u>		<u>1970</u>		<u>1969</u>		<u>1968</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Cancer Lung	15	4	17	7	11	5	10	3
Cancer Stomach	4	3	7	5	6	3	7	5
Coronary	54	58	60	85	65	74	64	42
Stroke	20	27	26	44	23	44	20	31
Pneumonic	26	63	24	67	38	56	37	52
Bronchitis	16	6	21	14	22	10	11	7

Coronary and cancer of the lung are the commonest killers in middle aged men and of the above totals, 7 men under 65 died of cancer of the lung and 16 died of coronary. Cancer of the stomach is not uncommon at this age, too, and 3 men under 65 died of this during the year.

All these diseases are on the increase and, while the infectious diseases, the major killers of an earlier generation, have largely been conquered by improved standards of living and hygiene, immunisation and modern methods of treatment with germ killing drugs, the degenerative and malignant diseases emerge as the great public health problem of the present. Much can be done by the individual to reduce his or her chances of succumbing prematurely to one of these conditions but unfortunately like so much good advice it is easier to give than to act upon. There is no doubt, nevertheless, that (1) dietary control to avoid overweight and intestinal stasis due to the consumption of refined foods, (2) the taking of regular exercise, and (3) the shunning of cigarettes would, if widely adopted have a dramatic effect on the figures quoted in these pages.

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year, 1971, are as follows:-

	<u>Number</u>			<u>Rate/Million</u>		
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Persons</u>
Cancer of Lung and Bronchus	25,137	5,609	30,746	1,060	224	630
Other Cancer	37,860	48,291	86,151	1,596	1,924	1,765

Section B

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Welfare Centres and Clinics

Bricket Wood - St. Luke's Church Hall

Infant Welfare	2nd and 4th Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Vaccination & Immunisation	3rd Wednesdays - 9.30-11.30 a.m.

Colney Heath - The Pavilion

Infant Welfare	1st and 3rd Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
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Harpenden - 40 Luton Road (Tel: Harpenden 2040)

Ophthalmic	Mondays - 9.30-11.15 a.m. (By Appointment)
Vaccination & Immunisation	2nd & 4th Wednesday in Month - 10.30-11.30 a.m. (Dr. Attends)
Speech Therapy	Tuesdays & Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Infant Welfare	Wednesdays - 1.45-4.00 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Dental	Monday } 9.30-12 noon to } Friday } 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Cytology Clinic	Thursdays 9.30-11.30 a.m. (By Appointment)

Harpenden - Batford J.M.I. School, Pickford Hill.

Infant Welfare	2nd & 4th Thursdays - 1.45-4.00 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Speech Therapy	Tuesday - 2-4 p.m.

Harpenden - Health Annexe Grove Road.

Infant Welfare	Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends 2nd & 4th)
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London Colney - Community Centre, Caledon Road.

Vaccination & Immunisation	Fridays - 9.30-12 noon (Dr. Attends)
Infant Welfare	Thursdays - 1.45-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)

Redbourn - Congregational Hall

Infant Welfare	2nd & 4th Tuesdays - 2.30-4.30 p.m.
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St. Albans - School Hall, Branch Road.

Infant Welfare	Mondays - 1.30-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends 2nd & 4th)
Vaccination & Immunisation	1st Monday - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Mandeville Health Clinic,
Mandeville Drive.
(Tel: St. Albans 50471)

Infant Welfare	Thursdays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends 1st, 3rd & 4th)
Dental	Tuesdays } 9.30-12 noon Wednesdays } 2-4 p.m. (By Appointment)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st, 3rd & 4th Thursdays - 2-2.30 p.m.

St. Albans - Margaret Wix Health Clinic,
High Oaks.
Tel: St. Albans 56994

Infant Welfare	Wednesdays - 1.30-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends 2nd & 4th)
Speech Therapy	Tuesdays - 2-4 p.m.
Dental	Mondays } Thursdays } a.m. & Fridays } p.m. (By Appointment)

St. Albans - Prae Wood Health Annexe,
King Harry Lane.
(Tel: St. Albans 65719)

Infant Welfare	Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends 1st & 3rd)
Immunisation & Vaccination	4th Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Principal Health Clinic,
Divic Centre.
(Tel: St. Albans 59211)

Immunisation & Vaccination	Mondays - 9-12 noon (Dr. Attends 9.30 a.m.)
Dental	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday - 9.30-12.30 p.m. : 2-5 p.m. Saturdays - 9.30-12 noon (alternate)
Orthoptic	Monday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m. Wednesday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m. Thursday - 9.30-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m. Friday - 9-12 noon : 2-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Ophthalmic	Monday and Tuesday - 9.30-12.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Speech Therapy	Tuesday - 9.30-12 noon : 1.30-4.30 p.m. Thursday - 1.30-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Ante-Natal	Wednesday - 2-4 p.m.

St. Albans - Principal Health Clinic (continued)

Infant Welfare	Tuesday & Friday - 1.30-4 p.m. (Dr. Attends) (Welfare Foods issued Tuesday and Friday)
Audiometrician	2nd Tuesday - 2-4.30 p.m. Thursdays - 9.30-12.30 p.m. : 2-5 p.m. Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Audiology	2nd & 4th Wednesdays - 9.30-12 noon 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday - 2.00-4.30 p.m. (By Appointment)
Cytology	Mondays - 6.30-9 p.m. } Fridays - 9.30-12 noon } By Appointment

St. Albans - Cunningham Hill Health Clinic
Cell Barnes Lane,
(Tel: St. Albans 53025)

Infant Welfare	Mondays - 2-4.30 p.m. Wednesdays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	1st & 3rd Thursdays - 9.30-12 noon (By Appointment)

St. Albans - Skyswood Health Clinic,
Marshalswick Estate.
(Tel: St. Albans 57041)

Infant Welfare	Fridays - 2-4.30 p.m. (Dr. Attends)
Immunisation & Vaccination	Mondays - 2-4 p.m.
Speech Therapy	Thursday - 9.30-12 noon (By Appointment)
Dental	Mondays } Tuesdays } 10-12 noon Wednesdays } 2-4 p.m. Fridays } (By Appointment)

St. Albans City Hospital - Normandy Road Wing.
(Tel: St. Albans 52211)

V.D. (Women)	Thursdays - 1.30-3 p.m.
V.D. (Men)	Tuesdays - 4-6 p.m.
Post-Natal	Wednesdays - 11 a.m.
Chest Clinic	Mondays - 9 a.m. } Wednesday - 9 a.m. } By Appointment Thursdays - 9 a.m. }

Sandridge - Parish Hall

Infant Weighing	2nd & 4th Wednesdays 2.30-3.30 p.m.
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Shenley - Village Hall

Infant Welfare

1st & 3rd Wednesdays - 2-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends)

Wheathampstead - Mead Hall, East Lane.

Infant Welfare

2nd & 4th Fridays - 2.30-4 p.m.
(Dr. Attends 3.00 p.m.)

Some of the County Council premises are also used by other organisations principally the Family Planning Association who hold sessions at St. Albans, Borehamwood and Harpenden, and the Blood Transfusion Service who hold Donor Sessions at St. Albans Principal Health Clinic.

Hospitals

I am indebted to Mr. K.S. Robson, Group Secretary, Mid-Herts. Group Hospital Management Committee, for the following information relating to Hill End, High Wick and St. Albans City Hospitals.

HILL END HOSPITAL

No. of Beds	747	Psychiatric
No. of Discharges	992	

Out-Patients

No. of New Patients	180
No. of Attendances	1,522

Day Patients

No. of New Patients	129
No. of Attendances	8,671

X-Ray Department	3,469	Units
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Physiotherapy Department	3,646	Attendances
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HIGH WICK

Regional Unit for Psychotic and Maladjusted Children

Beds	18
Discharges	7
Waiting List	10

ST. ALBANS CITY HOSPITAL

	Beds Allocated	In-Patient Discharges	New Out-Patients	Total Attendances
General Medicine	71.5	1,324	726	4,402
Paediatrics	18.9	393	382	2,402
Infectious Diseases	7.8	49		
Diseases of the Chest	2.8		766	3,722
Dermatology		1	503	1,626
Neurology			67	226
Physical Medicine			328	3,069
V.D.			453	875
Geriatrics	84	157		
General Surgery	58.4	1,832	1,785	6,348
E.N.T. (T & A)	8.7	155	1,239	2,750
E.N.T. (Other)		208		
Trau. and Orth. Surgery	38.3	1,180	1,795	5,087
Ophthalmology	7.4	252	746	3,176
Radiotherapy			66	611
Thoracic Surgery			12	67
Dentistry		16	468	1,289
Neurosurgery			12	27
Gynaecology	24.6	878	951	3,056
Obstetrics - Ante-Natal	35.3	1,094	913	8,042
- Post-Natal			797	797
Special Care Baby Unit	12	118		
Mental Illness			234	887
Allergy			256	256
Private Section 1	6			
" " 4	6			
Other Medical			705	1,339
Totals				
Accident & Emergency	375.2	7,667	13,409 14,189	51,474 24,275

Maternity: Live Births 904
 Still Births 14

X-Ray Department: 69,272 Units

Physiotherapy Department: 20,132 In-Patient Treatments
 3,899 Group Exercises (In-Patients)
 30,039 Out-Patient Treatments
 5,187 Group Exercises (Out-Patients)

Section C.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT

The following infectious diseases were notified to the Council during the year:-

Scarlet Fever	24
Whooping Cough	16
Measles	121
Food Poisoning	10
Infective Hepatitis	1
Dysentery	35

Tuberculosis

During 1971 the following new cases of tuberculosis were notified in the Rural District.

Age Group	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total	
	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	1	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 14 years	-	1	-	-	-	1
15 - 24 years	1	4	-	-	1	4
25 - 44 years	1	-	-	-	1	-
45 - 64 years	1	1	-	2	1	3
65 years and over	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	4	6	-	2	4	8

During the year 19 cases had recovered sufficiently to require no further surveillance. One respiratory (male) case transferred into the area.

The number of tuberculosis cases at the 31st December, 1971, under surveillance by the Chest Clinic, was as follows:-

Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
Males	Females	Males	Females	
168	110	16	24	318

There were no deaths from tuberculosis during the year, but the fact that this disease is still a major threat is shown in the figures for England and Wales below.

The provisional number of deaths and death rates per million population for England and Wales during the year 1971, are as follows:-

	Number			Rate/Million		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Respiratory Tuberculosis	672	253	925	28	10	19
Other Tuberculosis	111	86	197	5	3	4

Food Poisoning

Ten cases of food poisoning were reported in the Rural District during 1971. 7 of the cases were sporadic, and there was one small general outbreak of three cases. Of the ten cases five were caused by Salmonella infections. The remaining five were from causes unknown.

Venereal Diseases

The number of new cases of venereal diseases in the St. Albans Division during the year were as set out below. The high number of cases of gonorrhoea continues to be a cause of concern, but it is gratifying to note the low incidence of syphilis. The County Council installed an automatic recorded message telephone system during the year. By dialling St. Albans 64859 enquirers are now able to obtain a description of the commoner symptoms of venereal disease, together with times of the local clinics. The County Council is giving active consideration to more health education on this subject in an attempt to halt what has now reached virtually epidemic proportions, at least as far as gonorrhoea is concerned.

<u>Syphilis</u>		<u>Gonorrhoea</u>		<u>Other Genital Infections</u>		<u>Other Conditions</u>		<u>Total</u>	
<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
1	1	27	26	68	55	59	33	155	115

ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR TO THE CHAIRMAN AND
MEMBERS OF THE ST. ALBANS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the work carried out by the Council's Public Health Department during 1971.

Once again the year proved to be one without major public health problems.

Interest in house improvement continued, and the department was kept quite busy, dealing not only with the formal application, but also with the innumerable enquiries which precede actual applications. As anticipated, emphasis switched from standard grants to the more difficult and controversial "discretionary" grants. A new feature to emerge was the simultaneous enquiry from several would-be purchasers of the same vacant property, a very time-consuming and wasteful exercise.

May I express my thanks to the Councillors for their support and enlightened understanding of local public health problems, to fellow officers of the Council for their co-operation, and lastly, but by no means least, may I record my sincere appreciation of the work carried out by members of the staff of the public health department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

LESLIE LOWE

Chief Public Health Inspector

GENERAL SANITATION

WATER SUPPLIES

(a) Public

The supplies of water distributed in the area by the statutory undertakers have been satisfactory in quality, and sufficient in quantity, and there is no evidence that the water is liable to plumbo-solvency. The statutory undertakers sample the water regularly, and keep the department fully informed of the results of the examinations.

(b) Private

No dwelling houses within the district are now served by stand-pipes, but 111 houses still rely on private bores or wells, of which there are now 68. These 111 dwelling houses are located as follows:-

Colney Heath	6
Harpenden Rural	6
London Colney	2
Redbourn	5
St. Michael	2
St. Stephen	20
Sandridge	30
Wneathampstead	40
	<hr/>
	111
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Three houses within the district are supplied by a private well situated in the area of a neighbouring Authority. A further three bores are in use to supply Institutions, the two largest of these supplies being properly chlorinated.

In all, a total of 79 samples of well water were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Luton for examination. The results of these examinations showed all well water in the district to be of uniformly high quality.

SWIMMING POOLS

The Council have no swimming pools under their management, but, nevertheless, the department maintains close contact with the managements of all pools in the area. Technical advice is freely given in what is a very complex matter, and the pools regularly visited during the summer months. In addition to instant pool-side tests, a total of 102 samples of swimming pool water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no common lodging houses within the district.

AIR POLLUTION

Pollution measurement

The air pollution measurement station at the Council's London Colney Depot has now been operating for over three years, and the results for the last year have continued to suggest that the sulphur content is higher than is normal in predominantly residential areas.

The time is approaching when sufficient results will be available for a full appreciation to be made of the significance of the information which the machine is continuously obtaining for us.

Generally

On the subject of air pollution generally, the continuing trend towards gas, oil, and electric heating is manifestly having a remarkable effect on the apparent cleanliness of the air, although the unseen pollutants, such as the various oxides of sulphur, continue to be present as is evidenced by the results obtained from the National Survey of Air Pollution.

ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT 1963

At the end of the year, there were nine premises licensed under the above Act within the district. Conditions at these Boarding Establishments are extremely good.

CONTROL OF REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse collection and disposal is undertaken by the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, but a considerable volume of refuse from the Greater London area, and also from neighbouring districts, is disposed of by tipping within the St. Albans Rural District area. Such tipping is under the joint control of the Council and the County Council, and is being carried out in disused gravel pits. The tipping sites are regularly inspected and closely supervised, but, nevertheless, do give rise to occasional nuisance.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Mr. H. Wilkinson, Engineer and Surveyor to the Council, has kindly supplied the following note on arrangements for sewerage and sewage disposal.

"All the principal centres of population, containing about 95% of the dwellings in the district, are served by public sewers varying in diameter from 6" to 15", and having a total length of approximately 65 miles.

The Council has approved in principle sewer extensions to serve a further 70 dwellings in less densely populated areas.

The Rural District Council is a constituent authority member of the West Hertfordshire Main Drainage Authority, with whose trunk sewers most of the public sewers connect. The Authority's treatment works is at Maple Cross, near Rickmansworth.

Agreements with neighbouring local authorities provide for the inter-communication of sewers, resulting in an efficient and economic sewerage system in areas near to the Rural District's boundary.

The Council's only sewage disposal works is situated at Wheathampstead, and treats an average dry weather flow of approximately 180,000 gallons per day. The effluent from the works is discharged into the River Lee, the Catchment Board imposing a 10/10 p.p.m. standard for suspended solids and 5 day Biochemical Oxygen demand.

Being conscious of the importance of protecting the high quality of the water in the River Lee, and to ensure the standard of the effluent being maintained as development takes place in the future, a scheme for the extension of the sewage works has been submitted to the Department of the Environment. Progress in obtaining approval has been slow, due to the Lee Conservancy Catchment Board's protracted investigations into the presence of pesticides in the sewage."

SANITATION

(a) Cesspools

In addition to the public sewerage system, some 500 houses in the area have a water carriage system of sanitation incorporating the use of cesspools. These are emptied regularly by the Council, two specialised vehicles being provided for this purpose.

(b) Pail Closets

The number of dwellings within the district with pail closet sanitation is now only 7. The dwellings concerned are located as follows:-

Wheathampstead	2
St. Stephen	2
Harpenden Rural	2
Colney Heath	1

None of the premises concerned is within reasonable distance of sewers, and hence formal action for abolition of the pail closets cannot be undertaken, though the situation is constantly kept under review, and owners advised of the financial assistance available to abolish these unsatisfactory closets.

NUISANCES

A total of 325 complaints alleging nuisance were made to the department during 1971, and these were fully investigated, and appropriate action taken.

WASPS

The Council continued their policy of undertaking the destruction of wasps' nests free of charge. During the summer season of 1971, a total of 310 nests were destroyed. This service is one which is greatly appreciated by residents throughout the district.

RODENT CONTROL

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949

The Council is responsible for the administration of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, within their district, and since the coming into operation of this Act, it has been the Council's policy to carry out free treatment at domestic premises. In the case of commercial premises and agricultural holdings, charges are made on a scale regarded as sufficient to cover the cost involved, the department being prepared to quote for either single treatments, or for a contract period of one year. On 31st December, 1971, forty-six contracts were running, with an annual value of £536.50. Of these, twenty-five were in respect of farms, and twenty-one in respect of industrial premises.

There is no evidence at present of Warfarin resistance of rats in the area, and this rodenticide continues to be our first choice in dealing with rat complaints. In the case of mice, however, Warfarin appears to have lost its efficacy, but these can be controlled by the selective use of poisons as indicated after inspection of the site of infestation.

Statistics in respect of rodent control works are shown overleaf.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY	
	Non-Agri-	Agricul-
1. Number of properties in district	15186	366
2.(a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notifications.	370	25
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats (ii) Mice	264	25
	123	7
3.(a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification.	235	20
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats (ii) Mice	7	3
	5	-

HOUSING

There is a very good standard of housing within the district generally, more than half the dwellings being of post-war construction.

The following summary gives details of formal action relative to property within the district.

1. Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to the making of demolition or closing orders. 8
2. Number of demolition or closing orders made, and undertakings accepted:-
 - (a) Demolition Orders. 1
 - (b) Closing Orders, whole premises. 7
 - (c) Undertakings accepted that houses would be made fit. 0
 - (d) Undertakings carried out to the satisfaction of the Council. 2
3. Number of houses demolished:-
 - (a) As a result of Demolition Orders. 2
 - (b) In Clearance Areas. 0
4. (a) Number of Discretionary Improvement Grants approved by the Council 39
 (b) Number of applications formally refused. 1
5. Number of Standard Grants approved by the Council. 17
6. Number of Special Grants approved by the Council. 0

SLUM CLEARANCE

There are no areas within the district which warrant action by way of

slum clearance areas, such unsatisfactory properties as exist being best dealt with as individually unfit houses as and when circumstances permit. There are probably only about two dozen such properties now standing.

IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSES

The Council continued its policy of encouraging improvements, though, rather surprisingly, the number of grants approved showed a drop when compared with the previous year.

QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATES

In addition to the improvement provisions, the Housing Act 1969 enables landlords with controlled tenants to seek rent increases in certain circumstances. A pre-requisite is that the house shall be in reasonably good repair, and have all the standard amenities. The local authority signifies these conditions are met upon application by the issue of a Qualification Certificate.

A total of 38 applications were received during the year, together with 8 applications for Certificates of Provisional Approval, which are certificates indicating that the Council will be prepared to issue a full Qualification Certificate when certain lacking amenities are provided.

COUNCIL HOUSES

At the end of 1971, the Council had a total of 2893 council houses under its control.

CARAVAN SITES (CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT) ACT 1960, & CARAVAN SITES ACT 1968

'Eighty-five caravans are licensed on private sites in the district under the above act, fifty-three being used as permanent residences, and thirty-two for holidays and week-end use. In addition, the Council own two sites, one for sixty-nine caravans, and one for twenty-nine caravans, while the Herts. County Council has provided one site for itinerants with a maximum of fifteen standings.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES

MEAT INSPECTION

The slaughter of cattle, calves, sheep, and pigs for human consumption continued to be carried out at two licensed slaughterhouses in Wheathampstead and London Colney respectively. The London Colney slaughterhouse is, additionally, licensed for the slaughter of horses for human consumption. Again, all carcasses and their associated offals were inspected during the year.

No *Cysticercus Bovis* was detected in cattle, which, in general, were found to be of extremely high quality. Liver spoilage due to parasitic conditions in pigs and sheep continued to be relatively high.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART FOR THE YEAR 1971

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	647	400	274	1330	2317	86
Number inspected	647	400	274	1330	2317	86
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	2	9	13	-	4	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	50	116	22	38	179	26
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	4	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966

The hours for slaughtering prescribed by the Council under the above Regulations proved quite workable once again, although some small amount of overtime work was called upon from the Inspectors.

Imported Food Regulations, 1968

These regulations permit foodstuffs to be imported direct to inland areas without prior inspection at the dockside. This work has not imposed any great burden on the Department so far, but some problems have arisen where foodstuffs are redirected en route, a procedure which, in my view, is not in strict accordance with the Regulations. We have lodged complaints concerning this procedure with the Department of the Environment.

FOOD HYGIENE

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Registrations under Section 16

Seventy premises are registered in connection with the manufacture and sale of ice-cream and preserved foods, etc. Of these, fifty-two are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream.

(a) Milk Supplies

(i) Ten distributors are registered under Regulation 8 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.

(ii) Brucella Abortus

The cattle in one dairy herd in the district continued to yield milk which showed a positive reaction to tests for Brucellosis, and the Pasteurisation Order in force against the farm was continued.

(b) The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the district.

(c) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

A total of 239 premises in the district are subject to the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. The table which follows shows the grouping according to the categories of trade carried on in these premises, the number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16, and the number of premises affected by Regulation 19.

DETAILS OF FOOD PREMISES AS AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1971, GROUPED IN
TRADE CATEGORIES, TOGETHER WITH OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

Type of Food Premises	Total No. of Premises	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	Number of Premises to which Regulation 19 applies	Number of Premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19
1. Grocery, Provisions & General	42	42	42	42
2. Grocery, Provisions, & Butcher	2	2	2	2
3. Butcher	11	11	11	11
4. Baker's shop	6	6	6	6
5. Bakeries	4	4	4	4
6. Sweets, Confectionery, and/or ice-cream	17	17	17	17
7. Greengrocery	11	11	11	11
8. Fish	2	2	2	2
9. Fish & Greengrocery	-	-	-	-
10. Food Factories/ Wholesale Food	11	11	11	11
11. Schools & Institutions	27	27	27	27
12. Hospitals & Nursing Homes	6	6	6	6
13. Factory Canteens	22	22	22	22
14. Cafes including Clubs & Licensed Restaurants	20	20	20	20
15. Licensed Hotel/ Restaurant	8	8	8	8
16. Off Licences	5	5	3	3
17. Public Houses	46	46	46	46
TOTALS	239	239	237	237

In general, a good standard is to be found in food premises within the district, with most food workers anxious to carry out the spirit of the Regulations.

HEALTH EDUCATION

During the spring, a ten-lecture course in food hygiene in preparation for the appropriate certificate of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene was held at the St. Albans College of Further Education, the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector contributing some of the lectures. Some of the successful candidates in the examination are employed within the Rural District.

POULTRY INSPECTION

There is now only one poultry processing establishment operating in the area. Slaughtering is irregular, but a total of about 10,000 New York dressed birds were produced during the year. None of the poultry was inspected by Inspectors from the department.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES REGULATIONS, 1963

The number of infringements under the Regulations noted during the year was 16, being mostly of a minor nature. No prosecutions were undertaken in connection with the infringements, which were all remedied after informal action.

During the year, two accident notifications were received. Investigations were undertaken, but no further action was indicated.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

(I) PARTICULARS of Registrations and Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of premises registered during the year	Total number of registered premises at end of year	Number of premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices	3	41	9
Retail shops	4	105	21
Wholesale Shops, warehouses	-	4	2
Catering Establishments open to the public; canteens	-	22	2
Fuel Storage Depots	2	4	2
TOTALS	9	176	36

(II) ANALYSIS of persons employed in registered premises by workplace

Class of Workplace	Number of persons employed		
	Males	Females	Totals
Offices	249	147	396
Retail Shops	103	261	364
Wholesale departments; warehouses	8	2	10
Catering Establishments open to the public; Canteens	41	55	96
Fuel Storage depots	20	10	30
TOTALS	421	475	896

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Inspections and other details as required under the Factories Act of 1961, are shown in Appendix I.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1971
FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ST. ALBANS IN THE COUNTY OF HERTFORD

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health. (Including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspec- tions	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	92	46	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	4	-	-
TOTALS	103	50	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- sections were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (s.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (s.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (s.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-workers)	2	2	-	-	-
TOTALS	6	6	-	-	-

APPENDIX II

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION OF AREA

The following is a summary of visits and inspections carried out during the year. It does not include work carried out by the Rodent Operator, or Student Public Health Inspector.

GENERAL SANITATION

Public Health Acts

Primary Inspections	94
Re-visits	278
Infectious Diseases (including Food Poisoning)	149
Water supply and sampling	115
Drainage	130
Keeping of Animals	29
Refuse Disposal	92
Pest Control	90
Atmospheric Pollution	99
Noise Nuisances	30
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	21
Housing Acts (All purposes, including grants and Qualification Certificates)	776
Immigrants	26
Food Premises	343
Food vehicles	14
Caravans and Caravan Sites	62
Miscellaneous Visits (including unsuccessful visits)	374
Miscellaneous Food Visits	161
Meat Inspection	776
* Offices, Shops, and Railway Premises Act	51
Factories Act	54
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	2764
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APPENDIX III

NOTICES

The following notices were served during the year.

Informal Notices served	69
Informal Notices complied with	64
Formal Notices served	5
Formal Notices complied with	3

